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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,407	12/10/2003	Chandrashekhar Vasant Rode	4062-105	3922
23117	7590	01/18/2005	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714			SHIPPEN, MICHAEL L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1621	

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/731,407	RODE ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MICHAEL L SHIPPEN	1621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/20/04</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112¹

Claims 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out the claimed invention. The phrasing "metal catalyst contains a metal from the platinum group selected from the consisting of s[sic] platinum and palladium, along with nickel" is confusing. It appears to require that the catalyst must contain both nickel and the platinum metal which does not appear to be intended. It is noted that there is no disclosure of such a mixed metal catalyst in the specification.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out the claimed invention. The meaning of the term "esters" is ambiguous. It appears that it is intended to read on compounds such as ammonium formate and sodium formate which are not esters. Since applicants' use of the term appears to be distorted from the term's normal meaning, it is not clear what is actually intended to be or not to be within the purview of the term.

¹ The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 112 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same, and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102²

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dragovich (J. Org. Chem., Vol. 50, pp. 4922-4924 (1995)) or Varghese (Synthetic Communications, Vol. 25, pp. 2267-2273 (1995)). Note entry 10 of Table 2 of Dragovich and the Experimental Procedure of Varghese.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103³

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dragovich (J. Org. Chem., Vol. 50, pp. 4922-4924 (1995)) and Varghese (Synthetic Communications, Vol. 25, pp. 2267-2273 (1995)). The references are applied as above. The references do not teach some of the specific embodiments recited in the dependent claims. It is well within the skill of the artisan to vary the parameters suggested by the disclosure of the references and carry out the prior art process with the expectation that one will obtain the results taught in the references. The optimization of reaction conditions for a particular reaction system to optimize a result (such as to

² The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

³ The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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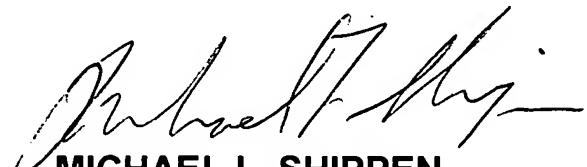
maximize the yield of a desired product) is well within the skill of the artisan through routine experimentation, *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Conclusion

The remaining references are cited as of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Michael L. Shippen** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-0647**. The Examiner's normal tour of duty is 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1600**. The official group FAX machine number is **571-273-8300**.

MShippen
January 13, 2005



MICHAEL L. SHIPPEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1621